

SENATE BILL REPORT

SB 5337

As of February 8, 2011

Title: An act relating to financial assistance to privately owned airports available for general use of the public.

Brief Description: Authorizing the provision of financial assistance to privately owned airports available for general use of the public.

Sponsors: Senators Stevens, Pflug, Honeyford, Swecker and Roach.

Brief History:

Committee Activity: Transportation: 2/02/11.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

Staff: Amanda Cecil (786-7429)

Background: Aircraft owners and dealers pay a variety of taxes and fees that are deposited in whole or in part to the Aeronautics Account. Sources of revenue in the Aeronautics Account also include federal airport development grants, federal airport planning grants, and other federal sources. State levied taxes and fees include:

- Aircraft Excise Tax, between \$20 and \$125 annually;
- Aircraft Fuel Tax, \$0.11 per gallon;
- Aircraft Dealers License Fee, \$75 annually; and
- Aircraft Registration Fee, \$15 annually.

The Washington State Department of Transportation, Aviation Division (WSDOT-Aviation) uses funds in the Aeronautics Account to make grants or loans to municipalities and federally recognized Indian tribes for the acquisition, construction, improvement, maintenance, or operation of an airport that is available for general use of the public.

Summary of Bill: Allows privately-owned airports that are available for general use of the public to be eligible for grants or loans from WSDOT-Aviation. Additionally, directs WSDOT to establish through rule, criteria for grants and loans administered by WSDOT-Aviation.

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

EFFECT OF CHANGES MADE BY TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE (Proposed Substitute): Directs WSDOT to establish through rule, criteria for grants and loans administered by WSDOT-Aviation.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

Committee/Commission/Task Force Created: No.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

Staff Summary of Public Testimony: PRO: The Washington State Department of Transportation needs to include conditions in the rules that require airports which receive grants to hold the airport available for general use of the public.

Persons Testifying: PRO: Ryan Zulauf, Washington Airport Management Association; John Dobson, Washington Pilots Association.